

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01957 010451Z  
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 USIA-06 /018 W  
-----012155Z 121348 /41

R 311441Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3342  
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA  
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1957

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, SEDU, ET  
SUBJ: ADDIS ABABA STUDENTS APPARENTLY RETURNED TO SCHOOL

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1656 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY : MARCH 26 WEEKLY AMHARIC PAPER REPORTED NEARLY 80 PERCENT OF ADDIS ABABA STUDENTS HAD RETURNED TO CLASS. ARTICLE CREDITED URBAN DWELLERS' ASSOCIATION (KEBELE) OFFICERS, PROGRESSIVE PARENTS, AND STUDENTS FOR RECOMMENCEMENT OF NORMAL CLASS SCHEDULE. ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY ALSO APPEARS TO HAVE RESUMED RLEATIVELY NORMAL CLASS SCHEDULE. ADDIS SCHOOLS HAVE AT LEAST SUPERFICIALLY CALM ATMOSPHERE FOR PRESENT. END SUMMARY.

1. VARIOUS SOURCES CONFIRM MARCH 26 PRESS REPORT THAT NEARLY 80 PERCENT OF ADDIS STUDENTS HAVE APPARENTLY RETURNED TO CLASS. DURING PAST 10 DAYS, 7TH THROUGH 9TH GRADES OF ADDIS ABABA SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN GRADUALLY RETURNING TO NORMAL, WITH ATTENDANCE NEARING 100 PERCENT IN 9TH GRADE AND BELOW. SOURCES ESTIMATE MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF 10TH THROUGH 12TH GRADERS, STAUNCHEST BOYCOTT SUPPORTERS IN PAST, HAVE BEGUN CLASSES. ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY (AAU) 4TH YEAR STUDENTS STILL ESTIMATED BETWEEN 40 TO 60 PERCENT ATTENDANCE, WITH 1ST THROUGH 3RD YEAR AAU  
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STUDENTS, ATTENDANCE REPORTEDLY UP TO ALMOST 40 PERCENT.

2. KEBELE OFFOCERS, PARENTS, AND STUDENTS HAVE IN FECT BEEN CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENCEMENT OF CLASSES. MAJOR INSTRUMENT FOR COERCING STUDENTS BACK TO CLASS HAS BEEN REGISTRATION OF MAJORITY OF STUDENTS AT LOCAL KEBELES WEEKEND MARCH 18-20. ONCE STUDENTS

WERE REGISTERED WITH KEBELES , ULTIMATUMS WERE DELIVERED BY INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS AND KEBELES. THREATS WERE MADE TO INCARCERATE NON-ATTENDING STUDENTS OR THEIR PARENTS. STORIES OF STERN ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST STUDENTS IN MAJOR TOWN OUTSIDE ADDIS, AND RUMORS OF MASS KILLINGS OF STUDENTS IN ADDIS APPEAR TO HAVE CONVINCED MAJORITY OF STUDENTS TO RETURN TO CLASSES. BY MARCH 28 ADDIS ABABA SCHOOLS APPEARED TO HAVE RESUMED NORMAL SCHEDULE. ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED IN MEDIA, ONE RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED APPROXIMATELY 600 STUDENTS WERE RELEASED FROM PRISON EVEINING MARCH 27.

3. COMMENT: EPMG ABILITY TO UTILIZE KEBELES TO ENFORCE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE VIVID DEMONSTRATION OF KEBELES' INCREASING INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTH AND EPMG'S WILLINGNESS TO RELY UPON THEM TO IMPLEMENT POLICY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009